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W Y C O M B E  
R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1954



W Y C O M B E  
R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
SANITARY INSPECTORS

1954

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Medical Officer of Health:  
A.J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:  
J.P. PERRY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1954

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Chairman:

Mrs M.G. Woollerton.

Vice-Chairman:

Mr R.H. Dancer

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 1st May, 1954

Chairman:

Mr G.B. Lee.

The Chairman of the Council

The Vice-Chairman of the Council

The Ex-Chairman

The Chairman of the Finance Committee

The Chairman of the Public Works Committee

Mr T.C. Austin

Mr H.E. Nixey

Mr H.W. Bristow

Mrs F.H. Pitcher

Rev. J.D. Charlesworth

Mr W.J. Pollard

Mrs A.M. Conoley

Mr W.J. Tapping

Mr A. Fleet

Mrs D.M. Walker

Brig.Gen.E.S. Hoare-Nairne

Mrs K.R. Wheeler

Mr R.M.E. Inchbald

Mrs C. Wontner

Mr C. Morris.

STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

A.J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B., B. Hy., D.P.H.

(Also Area and Divisional School Medical Officer,  
Buckinghamshire County Council).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

R. HANDY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

(Also Assistant County Medical and School Medical  
Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

J.P. PERRY, M.R.San. I., M.S.I.A. Meat Certificate.

Sanitary Inspectors:

D.J. SULLIVAN, M.S.I.A.

T. LAWSON, C.R.S.I.

Clerk:

MISS R.M. SPENCER

Rodent Operative:

E.V. BOWLER.

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,  
28, High Street,  
High Wycombe.

September, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of  
the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1954.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population in mid 1954 was 42,100 which was an increase of 1,000 on the figure for the previous year. There was an excess of 322 births over deaths this being the natural increase in the population the remaining 678 being due to inward migration.

Births numbered 701 (673 legitimate, 28 illegitimate) - this was an increase of 58 on the previous year's figure. The Birth-Rate expressed per 1,000 of the resident population was 16.6 compared with a national figure of 15.2. There were 379 deaths, the most frequent cause of death being diseases of the cardio-vascular system (187), Cancer (61) and diseases of the respiratory system (35). The Crude death rate expressed per 1,000 population was 9 compared with 11.3 for England and Wales.

Nineteen infants under the age of one year died during the year giving an Infantile Mortality rate (expressed per 1,000 live births) of 27.1, which is slightly higher than the National rate of 25.5.

Locally the rate has shown an increase of 6.9 over the previous year's figure but even so a rate of 27.1 cannot be considered unsatisfactory.



Last year I was able to report that not a single death from tuberculosis had occurred in 1953. In 1954 there were four such deaths, but there were eight fewer notifications of new cases. During the last few years there has been a great decrease in the incidence of this disease and in its mortality. Better nutrition, improved housing with less overcrowding, better methods of diagnosis and treatment have all played a part in this improvement. The results of the introduction of B.C.G. vaccination and its application to thirteen year olds will be watched with interest.

Whooping Cough was the most prevalent infectious disease during 1954 - there being 94 notified cases. No death was attributable to this disease although it should be pointed out that in this country it causes more deaths than any other infectious disease. In fact the deaths from it outnumber those from measles, scarlet fever, poliomyelitis and diphtheria combined. Not only is the disease lethal, particularly to young children but it causes much ill-health and in many cases permanent damage to the lungs. The local Health Authority at its Welfare Clinics, offers immunisation against whooping cough and the results, although not so spectacular as those following diphtheria immunisation, are encouraging.

For the seventh successive year there was not a single notification of diphtheria, which in these islands has become such a rare disease that many doctors who have qualified within the past five years never have seen a case. Before the war in England and Wales notifications numbered about 60,000 per annum with between 2,500 - 3,000 deaths. Now notifications number 600 or one per cent of the pre-war rate and the number of deaths can be counted on one's fingers.



There were 61 cases of measles notified and 20 cases of scarlet fever. Scarlet Fever years ago was a very serious disease but now-a-days it is usually a very mild complaint and does not give rise to the severe complications which it was wont to do years ago. It is only on rare occasions that admission to hospital is necessary or desirable. Only one case of poliomyelitis was notified and that in an adult, the disease being of the non-paralytic variety.

In these few remarks I have drawn attention to the outstanding features of the report and I should like to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation of Mr Perry and the Sanitary Inspectors and also the care and help of the Clerical Staff in drafting this report.

A.J. MUIR  
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Area in acres.....                                      | 71,232   |
| Population (1951 census).....                           | 39,352   |
| Registrar General's Estimate of population mid-1954     | 42,110   |
| No. of inhabited houses on rate book (31st March, 1954) | 12,489   |
| Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1954.....               | £259,781 |
| Estimated Product of Penny Rate.....                    | £1,085   |

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS

FOR THE YEAR 1954.

BIRTHS.

|  |              | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Live Births  | Legitimate   | 352          | 321            | 673           |
|  | Illegitimate | 14           | 14             | 28            |
|  | Totals       | 366          | 335            | 701           |
| Still Births   | Legitimate   | 4            | 5              | 9             |
|  | Illegitimate | 0            | 0              | 0             |
|  | Totals       | 4            | 5              | 9             |
| <hr/>  |              |              |                |               |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.                        |              |              |                | 16.6          |
| Comparability Factor - Birth Rate.....                                   |              |              |                | 1.02          |
| Adjusted local Birth Rate.....   |              |              |                | 16.9          |
| Birth Rate of England and Wales.....                                     |              |              |                | 15.2          |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 births live and still                         |              |              |                | 12.67         |
| Still Birth Rate of England and Wales per 1,000<br>births live and still |              |              |                | 24.00         |

DEATHS.

|  |   |         |   |            |
|--|---|---------|---|------------|
| Number of Deaths                                     | - | Males   | - | 195        |
|  |   | Females | - | 184        |
|  |   | Total   | - | <u>379</u> |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.... |   |         |   | 9.0        |
| Comparability Factor.....                            |   |         |   | 0.94       |
| Adjusted Local Death Rate.....                       |   |         |   | 8.46       |
| Death Rate of England and Wales.....                 |   |         |   | 11.3       |
| Tuberculosis Death Rate, Wycombe Rural District..... |   |         |   | 0.09       |
| Tuberculosis Death Rate, Total County.....           |   |         |   | 0.09       |

INFANT MORTALITY.

19 infants died under the age of one year.

|                   | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate.....   | 11           | 8              | 19            |
| Illegitimate..... | 0            | 0              | 0             |
| Totals.....       | <u>11</u>    | <u>8</u>       | <u>19</u>     |

This represents a mortality rate of 27.1 per 1,000 related births, compared with 25.5 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate - 21.4, compared with a county rate of 15.8.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

- (a) From puerperal sepsis..... 0
- (b) From other maternal causes. 1

TABLE OF DEATHS.

| <u>DISEASE.</u>                          | <u>MALES.</u> | <u>FEMALES.</u> | <u>TOTAL.</u> |
|--|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....        | 1             | 2               | 3             |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other.....              | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| 3. Syphilitic diseases.....              | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| 4. Diphtheria.....                       | 0             | 0               | 0             |
| 5. Whooping Cough.....                   | 0             | 0               | 0             |
| 6. Meningococcal Infections.....         | 0             | 0               | 0             |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....              | 0             | 0               | 0             |
| 8. Measles.....                          | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| 9. Other infectious diseases.....        | 1             | 2               | 3             |
| 10. Cancer, stomach.....                 | 6             | 3               | 9             |
| 11. Cancer, lungs.....                   | 7             | 3               | 10            |
| 12. Cancer, breast.....                  | 0             | 7               | 7             |
| 13. Cancer, uterus.....                  | 0             | 2               | 2             |
| 14. Other cancers.....                   | 18            | 15              | 33            |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....           | 2             | 1               | 3             |
| 16. Diabetes.....                        | 0             | 0               | 0             |
| 17. Vascular lesions, nervous system.... | 28            | 39              | 67            |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina.....        | 35            | 19              | 54            |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease..... | 4             | 4               | 8             |
| 20. Other heart diseases.....            | 17            | 20              | 37            |
| 21. Other circulatory diseases.....      | 9             | 12              | 21            |
| 22. Influenza.....                       | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| 23. Pneumonia.....                       | 15            | 8               | 23            |
| 24. Bronchitis.....                      | 6             | 5               | 11            |
| 25. Other respiratory diseases.....      | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| 26. Gastric and duodenal ulcer.....      | 3             | 2               | 5             |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.. | 2             | 0               | 2             |
| 28. Nephritis, nephrosis.....            | 2             | 3               | 5             |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....         | 4             | 0               | 4             |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion..... | 0             | 1               | 1             |

TABLE OF DEATHS. (contd)

| <u>DISEASE.</u>                                 | <u>MALES.</u> | <u>FEMALES.</u> | <u>TOTAL.</u> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 31. Congenital malformations.....               | 4             | 3               | 7             |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined<br>diseases.. | 16            | 24              | 40            |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents.....                | 4             | 0               | 4             |
| 34. Other accidents.....                        | 6             | 3               | 9             |
| 35. Suicide.....                                | 4             | 2               | 6             |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war.....         | 0             | 0               | 0             |
| All causes...                                   | 194           | 185             | 379           |

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live  
and Still) Births.

|   | <u>England and<br/>Wales.</u> | <u>Wycombe Rural<br/>District.</u> |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (a) Maternal causes, excluding<br>abortion..... | 0.58                          | 1.41                               |
| (b) Due to abortion.....                        | 0.11                          | Nil                                |
| (c) Total maternal mortality...                 | 0.69                          | 1.41                               |



CANCER DEATHS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages):-

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Males.....   | 31        |
| Females..... | 30        |
| Total.....   | <u>61</u> |

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| 1954..... | 61 |
| 1953..... | 76 |
| 1952..... | 72 |
| 1951..... | 72 |
| 1950..... | 77 |
| 1949..... | 62 |

The following organs were affected:-

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Stomach.....     | 9         |
| Lungs.....       | 10        |
| Breast.....      | 7         |
| Uterus.....      | 2         |
| Other Sites..... | 33        |
| Total.....       | <u>61</u> |

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases).....                          | 0.09 |
| Total Deaths - Respiratory Tuberculosis.....                      | 3    |
| Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....                          | 0.07 |
| Total Deaths - Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.....                  | 1    |
| Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....                      | 0.02 |
| Total Deaths - Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis).. <td>35</td> | 35   |
| Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis).....              | 0.83 |

# POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1954

| District      | Population Census 1951 | Registrar-General's<br>estimated Population<br>Mid-1954. | G crude Birth Rate<br>per 1,000 Population | G crude Death Rate<br>per 1,000 Population | Tuberculosis Death Rate<br>per 1,000 Population. | Infant Mortality Rate<br>per 1,000 Births. | Neo-Natal Mortality<br>Rate per 1,000 Births. | Maternal Mortality per<br>1,000 live and still-<br>births. |
|---------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Bucks County  | 386,164                | 403,000  | 15.6                                       | 9.5  | 0.09   | 22.4                                       | 15.8  | 0.47   |
| Total Urban   | 193,168                | 199,400  | 15.3                                       | 9.1  | 0.12   | 10.0                                       | 13.4  | 0.32   |
| Total Rural   | 192,996                | 203,600  | 15.9                                       | 9.9  | 0.06   | 25.6                                       | 17.9  | 0.61   |
| Wycombe Rural | 39,352                 | 42,110   | 16.6                                       | 9.0  | 0.09   | 27.1                                       | 21.4  | 1.41   |



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS). 1954.

| Disease                           | Total<br>Cases<br>Notified | Age Periods      |     |     |     |       |       |     |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|
|                                   |                            | Under<br>1 year. | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-24 | 25+ |
| Scarlet Fever                     | 20                         | -                | 1   | 3   | 10  | 4     | -     | 2   |
| Whooping Cough                    | 94                         | 5                | 16  | 22  | 45  | 2     | 1     | 3   |
| Acute Poliomyelitis:<br>Paralytic | -                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -   |
| Non-Paralytic                     | 1                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | 1   |
| Measles                           | 61                         | 2                | 7   | 7   | 44  | 1     | -     | -   |
| Diphtheria                        | -                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -   |
| Acute Pneumonia                   | 6                          | -                | -   | -   | 2   | -     | 1     | 3   |
| Dysentery                         | 1                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | 1     | -   |
| Smallpox                          | -                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -   |
| Acute Encephalitis:<br>Infective  | -                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -   |
| Post-Infectious                   | -                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -   |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever          | -                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -   |
| Paratyphoid Fevers                | -                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -   |
| Erysipelas                        | 3                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | 3   |
| Meningococcal Infection           | 1                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | 1   |
| Food Poisoning                    | -                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -   |
| Puerperal Pyrexia                 | -                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -   |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum             | -                          | -                | -   | -   | -   | -     | -     | -   |
| Totals:                           | 187                        | 7                | 24  | 32  | 101 | 7     | 3     | 13  |

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1954.

(a)

(b)

| Age<br>Periods | New Cases   |   |                 |   | Deaths      |   |                 |   |
|----------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
|                | Respiratory |   | Non-Respiratory |   | Respiratory |   | Non-Respiratory |   |
|                | M           | F | M               | F | M           | F | M               | F |
| 0              | -           | - | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 1              | 1           | 1 | -               | 1 | -           | - | -               | - |
| 5              | 1           | - | -               | 1 | -           | - | -               | - |
| 10             | -           | - | -               | 1 | -           | - | -               | - |
| 15             | 4           | 2 | -               | 1 | -           | - | -               | - |
| 25             | -           | - | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| 35             | 1           | 1 | -               | - | -           | 1 | -               | - |
| 45             | 4           | - | -               | 1 | 1           | 1 | -               | - |
| 55             | -           | - | -               | - | -           | - | 1               | - |
| 65+            | 3           | - | -               | - | -           | - | -               | - |
| Totals         | 14          | 4 | -               | 6 | 1           | 2 | 1               | - |

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation against diphtheria (and, where desirable), whooping-cough, continues to be carried out in schools and the Infant Welfare Centres in your District, by arrangements made with the Bucks County Council. It is also optional for all persons to choose to have this service performed by their elected doctor under the National Health Service Act (1946). Completed record cards are returned to the County Health Department by all services. Completed courses of immunisation, (including A.P.T. and combined diphtheria-pertussis vaccine) amounted to 608 for the year 1954. This figure is based on the returns received in the County Health Department.

### HOSPITALS.

The available hospitals in the District are the High Wycombe War Memorial Hospital, Booker Hospital, Amersham General Hospital, Maidenhead Isolation Hospital, Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow; Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury Isolation Hospital, Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury; The Radcliffe Infirmary, Churchill Hospital and The Slade Hospital, Oxford; and the Battle Hospital, Reading.

### AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The ambulance arrangements pertinent to your area, are as follows:

Station at High Wycombe.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - No formal action.

DETAILS OF WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following table:-

| Parish                  | Supplied direct by<br>pipes into houses. |                          | Supplied by<br>Standpipes. |                          |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
|                         | No. of<br>Houses.                        | Estimated<br>Population. | No. of<br>Houses.          | Estimated<br>Population. |
| Bledlow-cum-Saunderton. | 521                                      | 1,719                    | 12                         | 40                       |
| Bradenham.....          | 36                                       | 119                      | -                          | -                        |
| Chepping Wycombe Rural. | 1,886                                    | 6,224                    | 51                         | 168                      |
| Ellesborough.....       | 252                                      | 831                      | 8                          | 26                       |
| Fawley.....             | 47                                       | 155                      | 6                          | 20                       |
| Fingest.....            | 537                                      | 1,772                    | 30                         | 99                       |
| Hambleden.....          | 401                                      | 1,323                    | 20                         | 66                       |
| Hampden, Gt & Lt.....   | 97                                       | 320                      | 8                          | 26                       |
| Hedsor.....             | 36                                       | 119                      | 1                          | 3                        |
| Hughenden.....          | 1,412                                    | 4,660                    | 28                         | 92                       |
| Ibstone.....            | 89                                       | 294                      | 4                          | 13                       |
| Kimble, Gt & Lt.....    | 243                                      | 802                      | 2                          | 7                        |
| Lacey Green.....        | 345                                      | 1,139                    | 16                         | 53                       |
| Longwick-cum-Ilmer..... | 153                                      | 505                      | 2                          | 7                        |
| Marlow, Gt.....         | 398                                      | 1,313                    | 35                         | 116                      |
| Marlow, Lt.....         | 243                                      | 802                      | 10                         | 33                       |
| Medmenham.....          | 114                                      | 376                      | 7                          | 23                       |
| Radnage.....            | 153                                      | 505                      | 3                          | 10                       |
| Princes Risborough..... | 1,594                                    | 5,260                    | 6                          | 20                       |
| Stokenchurch.....       | 754                                      | 2,488                    | 10                         | 33                       |
| Turville.....           | 98                                       | 324                      | 18                         | 59                       |
| West Wycombe Rural..... | 550                                      | 1,815                    | 15                         | 50                       |
| Wooburn.....            | 1,991                                    | 6,570                    | 38                         | 125                      |
| Totals.....             | 11,950                                   | 39,435                   | 330                        | 1,089                    |



I am also indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following figures:-

CESSPOOL EMPTYING 1954.

| <u>Parish.</u>              | <u>No. of gallons of sewage removed.</u> |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Bledlow-cum-Saunderton..... | 1,071,875                                |
| Chepping Wycombe Rural..... | 6,297,945                                |
| Ellesborough.....           | 549,800                                  |
| Fawley.....                 | 22,350                                   |
| Fingest.....                | 1,297,750                                |
| Hambleton.....              | 698,450                                  |
| Hampden, Gt & Lt.....       | 102,500                                  |
| Hughenden.....              | 3,553,050                                |
| Ibstone.....                | 224,450                                  |
| Kimble, Gt & Lt.....        | 425,600                                  |
| Lacey Green.....            | 796,600                                  |
| Longwick-cum-Ilmer.....     | 604,850                                  |
| Marlow, Gt.....             | 526,300                                  |
| Marlow, Lt.....             | 132,500                                  |
| Medmenham.....              | 163,350                                  |
| Radnage.....                | 454,100                                  |
| Princes Risborough.....     | 105,375                                  |
| Stokenchurch.....           | 3,132,400                                |
| Turville.....               | 196,300                                  |
| West Wycombe Rural.....     | 1,130,350                                |
| Wooburn.....                | 4,582,560                                |
| Total....                   | <u>26,068,455</u>                        |

RAINFALL, 1954.

I am indebted to the Director of the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, for the following particulars of rainfall recorded during 1954.

Rainfall recorded at Princes Risborough

Station: 333 feet above sea level.

| Month      | Monthly Rain-fall. | No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured. | Largest Rainfall |        |
|------------|--------------------|---|------------------|--------|
|            |                    |   | Date             | Amount |
| January... | 1.05               | 9   | 13th             | 0.34   |
| February.. | 2.25               | 16  | 9th              | 0.36   |
| March..... | 2.40               | 16  | 6th              | 0.49   |
| April..... | 0.35               | 6   | 1st              | 0.20   |
| May.....   | 4.58               | 16  | 12th             | 1.38   |
| June.....  | 3.65               | 17  | 12th             | 0.92   |
| July.....  | 2.12               | 17  | 25th             | 0.61   |
| August.... | 3.59               | 16  | 12th             | 0.66   |
| September. | 1.71               | 19  | 23rd             | 0.33   |
| October... | 2.20               | 18  | 26th             | 0.46   |
| November.. | 5.69               | 20  | 6th              | 0.81   |
| December.. | 2.94               | 13  | 8th              | 2.09   |
| Totals.... | 32.53              | 183   |                  |        |





SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1954.

Public Health Department,  
28, High Street,  
High Wycombe.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit a Summary of the Work carried  
out by the Department in the year 1954.

I am,

Mr Chairman, My Lord,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.P. PERRY

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

FOREWORD.

Our present standard of environmental hygiene is in no small measure due to the efforts in the nineteenth century of Sir Edwin Chadwick and other reformers who engaged in public health work.

Their work has since been continued by various individual and group efforts, the latter including those of local authority associations privileged by statute to engage in work towards a common general objective which has been so ably defined by the World Health Organisation to be "the control of all those factors in man's physical environment which exercise or may exercise a deleterious effect on his physical development.

There is a danger that the improvements secured may be taken for granted and undervalued. The smog evil and the slum conditions which still exist are but two matters which forcibly remind us that complacency regarding our present conditions is unjustified, and that constant and insistent attention is needed in order to achieve and maintain a satisfactory environment.

The menace of atmospheric pollution, bad housing conditions, food poisoning and the resultant recent activity at governmental level on these matters underline the need for this insistent attention.

Safe food, wholesome drinking water, improvement of housing conditions, good sanitation and clean atmosphere have been the objective of your officers' work, and your Council's participation in this field of environmental hygiene is reflected to some extent in the report submitted under the following sections:-

|             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Section 'A' | HOUSING                      |
| Section 'B' | WATER SUPPLIES               |
| Section 'C' | SANITATION                   |
| Section 'D' | PEST INFESTATION CONTROL     |
| Section 'E' | SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES |
| Section 'F' | FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS      |
| Section 'G' | MISCELLANEOUS                |

SECTION 'A'

HOUSING.

Present Action.

In the year 1954 your Council continued to erect houses at a rate which made your Authority one of the foremost of its kind in the country in connection with the provision of new housing accommodation.

Your Council's policy to encourage owners to improve older properties by means of improvement grants, and the resultant publicity given to this matter together with the modifications of the provisions of the Housing Act relative to improvement grants, have resulted in an acceleration in the number of applications received by your Authority.

Generally however the owners of low rented sub standard houses are not interested in improvement grants. Improvement work makes necessary contingent repairs and this factor allied to the rent increase permitted have made the grants unattractive to the owners of such class of dwellings.

Another factor retarding the application of grants is the necessity for the owner and tenant to agree to the proposed works. In some cases a tenant wishes for improvement work to proceed and the owner is not willing, in other cases an owner is prepared to improve his property only to find that the tenant will not approve. As will be appreciated the raising of a house to the improvement grant standard of fitness is a permissive action and is not enforceable by a local authority.

It would appear therefore that in the main owner occupiers and not owners of tenanted houses are taking advantage of the improvement grants.

The shortage of housing accommodation and the new legislation have prescribed the pattern of your sanitary officers' work during the year 1954. Generally your Council have had to pursue the policy of securing first aid repairs to sub standard properties, and preventing re-occupation of houses when vacated in an unfit state. In certain cases with the vacation of low rented houses and subsequent owner-occupation of the properties, major works of repair and reconditioning have been carried out.



Since the introduction in August of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954, your officers have been extensively engaged in the survey of sub standard houses. This has been necessary as the first specific duty of each local authority in connection with the new Act, is to submit to the Minister of Housing & Local Government, within a year, proposals for dealing with the houses within their district which appear to be unfit for human habitation.

#### Future Action.

The new Act presents new problems and challenges both to local authorities and their officers. Whatever limitations the Act may possess and time reveal, a vigorous attempt is called for in order to ensure the maintenance and rescue of the existing houses where possible and their demolition and replacement where necessary.

#### Summary of Inspections, Notices Served, etc.

A summary of the action taken under the Housing & Public Health Acts is recorded herewith:-

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Inspections under the Housing Acts, 1936/53.....   | 326 |
| Re-inspections.....  | 932 |
| Inspections in connection with improvement grant enquiries   | 32  |
| Number of applications submitted for improvement grants...   | 20  |
| Number of applications approved.....   | 20  |
| Inspections under the Public Health Act, 1936.....   | 474 |
| Re-inspections.....  | 458 |
| Number of interviews with owners with respect to repairs, reconditioning, future user of houses..... | 415 |
| Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued.....  | Nil |

# SUMMARY OF INFORMAL NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Article 27 of the Sanitary Officer's (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1936, in relation to Inspections and Notices etc.

| Acts and Sections under which Notices were served. | No. of Informal Notices and Letters. | Complied with. | Not Complied with. |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| P.H.A. 1936, Sec. 92 (1) (a)...                    | 141                                  | 109            | 32                 |
| " " " 259.....                                     | 5                                    | 5              | -                  |
| " " " 92 (1) (b)...                                | 8                                    | 8              | -                  |
| " " " 92 (1) (c)...                                | 17                                   | 17             | -                  |
| " " " 39.....                                      | 34                                   | 28             | 6                  |
| " " " 44-45.....                                   | 17                                   | 16             | 1                  |
| " " " 75.....                                      | 14                                   | 14             | -                  |
| " " " 56.....                                      | 8                                    | 8              | -                  |
| " " " 141.....                                     | 4                                    | 4              | -                  |
| " " " 39 (1) (b)...                                | 8                                    | 2              | 6                  |
| " " " 39 (1) (d)...                                | 1                                    | 1              | -                  |
| " " " 138.....                                     | 21                                   | 17             | 4                  |
| Totals.....  | 278                                  | 229            | 49                 |

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

| Acts and Sections under which Notices were served. | No. of Notices. | Com-plied with. | Work in progress at end of year. | Notices not complied with. | Prosecu-tions. |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| P.H.A. 1936, Sec. 92 (1) (a).                      | 32              | 27              | 3                                | 2                          | -              |
| " " " 259.....                                     | -               | -               | -                                | -                          | -              |
| " " " 92 (1) (b).                                  | -               | -               | -                                | -                          | -              |
| " " " 92 (1) (c).                                  | -               | -               | -                                | -                          | -              |
| " " " 39.....                                      | 6               | 5               | 1                                | -                          | -              |
| " " " 44-45.....                                   | 1               | 1               | -                                | -                          | -              |
| " " " 75.....                                      | -               | -               | -                                | -                          | -              |
| " " " 56.....                                      | -               | -               | -                                | -                          | -              |
| " " " 141.....                                     | -               | -               | -                                | -                          | -              |
| " " " 39 (1) (b).                                  | 6               | 4               | 1                                | 1                          | -              |
| " " " 39 (1) (d).                                  | -               | -               | -                                | -                          | -              |
| " " " 138.....                                     | 4               | 4               | -                                | -                          | -              |
| Totals.....  | 49              | 41              | 5                                | 3                          | -              |

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Section 9,10 & 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs (informal notices)..... | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs.....             | - |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of notice:-                                 |   |
| (a) By owners.....  | 3 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....  | - |

(b) Proceedings under Section 11,12 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936.....             | 37 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made.....                 | 2  |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made.....                    | -  |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses of which the Council have accepted undertakings from the owners..... | 28 |
| (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.....                    | -  |
| (6) Number of dwelling houses repaired as a result of undertakings given by owners.....            | 12 |

(c) Proceedings under Section 92 (1) (a) of the Public Health Act 1936:-

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit as a result of informal/formal action..... | 74 |
|---|----|

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV. Overcrowding:-

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... | 5 |
| (b) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.         | 7 |



WORKS EXECUTED AS A RESULT OF NOTICES.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Dwelling house roofs repaired.....  | 62 |
| "        "        eaves gutters repaired or provided where<br>missing.....    | 42 |
| "        "        brickwork to walls, chimney stacks, etc. made<br>good.....  | 38 |
| "        "        woodwork to windows repaired.....                           | 29 |
| "        "        interior plaster made good.....                             | 31 |
| "        "        windows made to open for the purpose of<br>ventilation..... | 7  |
| "        "        woodwork to stairs, floor etc. made good.....               | 34 |
| "        "        dampness remedied.....                                      | 36 |
| "        "        interior walls cleansed and re-decorated.....               | 21 |
| "        "        cooking arrangements, etc. rendered<br>serviceable.....     | 14 |
| "        "        outbuildings repaired.....                                  | 6  |
| Miscellaneous Works.....  | 37 |
| Dwelling house drains cleansed, ventilated or made sound.....                 | 26 |
| "        "        new drainage system provided.....                           | 8  |
| "        "        new cesspools provided.....                                 | 8  |
| E.C's or privies converted to W.C's.....                                      | 12 |
| Closets repaired.....   | 17 |
| New W.C's constructed.....  | 14 |
| House sinks provided.....   | 12 |
| Sanitary ashbins provided.....  | 14 |
| Accumulation nuisances abated.....  | 17 |
| Animal nuisances abated.....  | 8  |
| Yards paved and drained.....  | 8  |
| Houses connected to public water mains.....                                   | 27 |

SECTION 'B'

WATER SUPPLIES.

Arrangements for the supply of piped water in the district generally remained unchanged. Only one hamlet, Ilmer is without a main water supply.

The various water undertakings operating in your Council's area are as follows:-

1. Wycombe Rural District Council.
2. Wycombe Borough Council.
3. The Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.
4. The Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Company.
5. The Marlow Water Company.
6. The Bucks Water Board.

Despite the provision of main water supplies, the occupiers of many houses still derive their water from wells and rainwater tanks. In some cases individual properties are away from the lines of mains, in other cases owner-occupiers with limited incomes are reluctant to incur the cost of a main water supply, whilst the occupiers of other dwellings have a prejudice in favour of their individual supplies as compared with a main water supply.

Supervision of water supplies is an important feature of your sanitary officers' work and sampling has been carried out wherever deemed to be necessary. Where, after chemical/bacteriological examination, adverse reports have been received, owners of properties have been requested to provide a wholesome and sufficient water supply.

Sampling on a comprehensive scale was commenced at Ilmer towards the end of the year 1954 and continued into the following year in order to determine the wholesomeness of the well water supplies in that area.

Your Council's water supply serving the parishes of Stokenchurch, Radnage and parts of Bledlow-cum-Saunderton and Bradenham and derived from the boreholes at Lower Road, Bennett End, Radnage, has been regularly checked at source. All samples submitted for examination have been reported upon as conforming to a satisfactory standard of purity.

Data in connection with the work of your officers is detailed as follows:-

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of samples taken for bacteriological/chemical examination.....              | 82 |
| Number of samples not conforming to a satisfactory standard.....                   | 20 |
| Number of houses where owners have provided a sufficient and wholesome supply..... | 26 |

### SECTION 'C'

#### SANITATION.

Sewerage schemes in connection with Woburn Valley and for the village of Hambleton have progressed during the year under review. Your Council have also approved the preparation of schemes for Stokenchurch, Hughenden Valley and Speen, Lacey Green, Fingest, Turville and Ibstone.

There has been no significant change with respect to constructional work on main drainage, and cesspool drainage remains the predominant form of drainage in the district.

The deficiencies of the dry conservancy system and cesspool drainage have been enumerated in previous reports. These systems have given rise to complaints which have again claimed the attention of your officers.

Lack of suitable sites for disposal of sewage from cesspool emptiers, density of population, nature of district and the development taking place emphasise the necessity for main drainage in order to ensure a satisfactory planned system for the disposal of the waste products of human living. Despite this necessity, economic policy at national level may retard the implementation of these main drainage schemes.



SECTION 'D'

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL.

In preceding reports I have referred to the enormous damage caused by rats and mice throughout the country resulting in an annual loss of many millions of pounds and of the transmission of disease from rodents to man. Protecting humans from this danger and having regard to the urgent necessity to conserve world food supplies, rodent extermination becomes a factor of major importance.

The provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, makes it obligatory for a local authority to arrange for the survey of their district in order to determine the presence of rats and mice and to secure their destruction. The Act is an important instrument in the campaign for the destruction of rodents.

The success of this work is to a great extent dependent upon co-operation from the public. It is important in this connection that the public should be made aware that it is obligatory for occupiers of land, (which includes dwellings), to notify the local authority when rats or mice are living on or resorting to the land in substantial numbers. The fact that no direct charge is made by your Authority with respect to treatments carried out at private properties is an incentive to notification. This is becoming more and more apparent by the demands made by householders for your Council's rodent control service.

The service to be successful requires planning, trained personnel, special equipment and materials. Methods of control include poison, fumigation and trapping. Extensive experimental and practical trials carried out by the Ministry of Agricultural & Fisheries, (Infestation Control Division), have shown that the use of poison techniques is generally the most effective method of extermination.

These techniques have been employed in your Council's district in relation to infestations at dwelling houses, factory premises, food premises, offices, refuse tips etc.

It is pleasing to record an apparent decrease in the degree of infestations in the area. The utmost vigilance is necessary however in order to maintain and improve upon this position. The degree of success of any operation can only be measured by subsequent absence of damage caused by rodents and not by the number of dead bodies found after treatment.

Once again your Council as a constituent member has participated in the work of the South Bucks & East Berks Workable Area Committee of which I have had the privilege to preside as Chairman during the year under review. The Committee has continued to prove to be a useful medium for discussing rodent control problems and ensuring co-operation between local authorities and other associations and bodies engaged in the work of pest control.

Details of the work carried out during the year are set forth in the accompanying table:-

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

i 28 i

| Type of Property  | Local Authority              | Dwelling Houses. (including Council Houses). | All other (including Business Premises). | Total               | Agricultural.    |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|------------------|
| I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District.  | 13                           | 12,800                                       | 740                                      | 13,553              | 280              |
| II. Number of properties inspected as a result of (a) notification (b) survey under the Act or (c) otherwise. | (a) Nil<br>(b) 13<br>(c) Nil | 367<br>214<br>2,562                          | 38<br>97<br>482                          | 405<br>324<br>3,044 | 12<br>166<br>Nil |
| III. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:-                         |                              |  |  |                     |                  |
| (a) Rats  | 1                            | 1  | 2  | 4                   | 11               |
| Major   |                              |  |  |                     |                  |
| Minor   | Nil                          | 394  | 62                                       | 456                 | 40               |
| (b) Mice  | Nil                          | Nil  | Nil                                      | Nil                 | Nil              |
| Major   |                              |  |  |                     |                  |
| Minor   | Nil                          | 27   | 15                                       | 42                  | 2                |
| IV. Number of infested properties (in Sec.III) treated by the Local Authority.                                |                              | 422  | 26                                       | 448                 | Nil              |
| V. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:-  |                              |  |  |                     |                  |
| (a) Treatment   | Nil                          | Nil  | Nil                                      | Nil                 | Nil              |
| (b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)   | Nil                          | Nil  | Nil                                      | Nil                 | Nil              |



SECTION 'E'

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Introduction.

In order to maintain a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene we are presented with challenges from all sides. Amongst the most dominant of those challenges is that of securing and maintaining improvements in the clean handling of food at all stages of production and distribution.

The shortcomings of the existing legal code on the cleanliness of food with its omissions and uncertainties are well known to the trades and to the authorities responsible for the administration of the Food & Drugs Acts. It is to be hoped that impending legislation to amend these Acts will strengthen the powers of the authorities charged with its enforcement.

Apart from regulations however, the attainment of the objective of clean, safe food depends so much on the good will and sense of public responsibility of both trader and employee. An informed and discriminating public can accomplish much towards securing satisfactory standards.

The prevention of outbreaks of food poisoning depend mainly on the standards of personal and kitchen hygiene in food preparing premises. Rapid cooking, refrigeration and where necessary reheating of foodstuffs to boiling point are measures which commend themselves as desirable safeguards.

It must be remembered that clean food handlers can produce clean wholesome food in premises with little equipment, but food prepared in kitchens with the most elaborate fittings may be unsafe if staffed by dirty food handlers.

Cafes, Restaurants and Food Shops.

Routine visits have been made to cafes, restaurants and other types of food premises. Traders have been encouraged to adopt standards which will result in improved conditions and practices where food is being prepared, stored or sold for human consumption.

Matters which have come within the purview of your officers have included design of premises, constructional details relating to walls, floors, ceilings, ventilation and lighting, standards of cleanliness with respect to food rooms and utensils, hot and cold water supplies, drainage, storage of food and freedom from insect and vermin infestation.

The work of the department in this connection is summarised herewith:-

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Number of visits to food premises.....                      | 479 |
| Food rooms redecorated.....                                 | 34  |
| Food rooms repaired (floors, walls, ceilings, windows)..... | 25  |
| Wash basins provided.....                                   | 11  |
| New sanitary accommodation provided.....                    | 5   |
| Provision of constant hot water supply.....                 | 7   |
| Rodent infestation dealt with.....                          | 16  |
| Additional ventilation provided.....                        | 4   |
| Refuse receptacles provided.....                            | 8   |

#### Ice-cream.

Ice-cream still maintains its popularity and sales continue to increase.

The necessity to safeguard the public against possible dangers arising from the contamination of this food has long been recognised by the trade itself, and is given further recognition by way of legislation embodied in the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment Etc), Regulations, 1947. Provision is made for registration of premises and conditions controlling the manufacture, storage and selling of the commodity.

Altogether 66 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream and 7 new applications for registration were approved during the year under review. In nearly all cases the ice-cream is sold in a pre-packed condition.

In administering the relevant legislation your officers have been called upon to deal with such matters as suitability of premises, trade equipment, methods of manufacture, and, sampling for the purpose of bacteriological examination.

Samples taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination have been subjected to the methylene blue test, and subsequently classified in accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommended scheme for the grading of ice-cream.



The results of such tests are tabulated and may be regarded as being satisfactory.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Number of manufacturers of ice-cream..... | 2  |
| Number of retailers of ice-cream.....     | 66 |
| Number of new premises registered.....    | 7  |

| <u>Number of samples submitted<br/>for examination.</u> | <u>Grading.</u> |
|---|-----------------|
|---|-----------------|

|    |         |
|----|---------|
| 37 | Grade 1 |
| 18 | Grade 2 |
| 5  | Grade 3 |
| 3  | Grade 4 |

In cases where samples were reported upon as Grade 3 or 4 check samples were taken and subsequent reports gave improved gradings.

### Milk.

Administration of legislation with regard to milk production and distribution has, generally speaking, continued to be carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and local authorities respectively.

In my preceding report I stated that the policy of eventually restricting the sale of milk to milk designated as "Tuberculin Tested" and milk which had been heat treated was receiving implementation.

In this connection 1954 was noteworthy with regard to your Council's area, as Parliament approved an Order made by the Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries under the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream), Act, 1950, whereby twelve areas including the Wycombe Rural District became "specified" areas within which only milk which was heat treated or designated as "Tuberculin Tested" could be sold. March 1st, 1955 was the date prescribed for the Order to come into operation.

Your Council's statutory duties have again been related to the distribution of milk, necessitating registration of dairies and dairymen, issuing supplementary licences for the sale of designated milk and helping to ensure that milk may be consumed by the public with safety.

Infected milk has again claimed attention. As the result of reports received in connection with milk infected with disease communicable to man, investigation was necessary in twenty cases. Measures were taken to ensure that the milk was neat-treated before sale for human consumption.

The following information relates to administrative work in connection with the Milk & Dairies Act & Regulations:-

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of visits to dairy premises.....  | 112 |
| " " cases of milk infected with tubercle bacilli.....                            | 5   |
| " " " " " " brucella.....  | 15  |
| " " registered dairies.....  | 10  |
| New dairy premises registered.....   | Nil |
| Number of registered dairymen.....   | 15  |
| " " dealers licences issued to use designation<br>"Pasteurised".....             | 22  |
| " " dealers licences issued to use designation<br>"Tuberculin Tested".....       | 22  |
| " " supplementary licences issued to use designation<br>"Pasteurised".....       | 3   |
| " " supplementary licences issued to use designation<br>"Tuberculin Tested"..... | 3   |
| " " licences issued to use designation "Sterilised"....                          | 5   |
| " " milk samples taken for bacteriological examination.                          | 12  |
| " " " " " " biological examination.....  | 18  |

#### Foreign Bodies in Foodstuffs.

Three complaints were received concerning foods sold by retail and subsequently found to contain extraneous matters. No summary proceedings were instituted following investigation of these cases.

## Meat Inspection.

Nineteen-fifty-four was memorable for the introduction of legislation resulting in the decontrol of meat after fourteen years of control by the Ministry of Food.

The termination of the meat and livestock control scheme brought a return to private slaughtering and marketing of meat, and with it new responsibilities for local authorities charged with the duty of ensuring that sufficient slaughtering facilities were available when the Ministry of Food's control of slaughtering ended in July.

Until July of this year home killed meat for the Wycombe Rural District was distributed from a slaughterhouse situated in an adjoining Authority's area. Your officers shared in the work of meat inspection at this slaughterhouse.

As the result of the impending decontrol of meat your Council in the early part of the year participated in discussions with neighbouring authorities to consider the establishment of a public abattoir, and a Joint Committee of representatives of the authorities was formed to deal with this matter.

It will be appreciated that this approach to the problem was a long term policy and in the interim period, before meat was decontrolled, other arrangements would have to be made in order that local authorities should fulfil their statutory duty of ensuring that adequate slaughtering facilities were available.

The Joint Committee considered using one slaughterhouse then under the control of the Ministry of Food and adapting it to meet the needs of the joint area. At a late stage however it was found that the facilities available at this slaughterhouse would not suffice for the needs of the joint area and as a result your Council were called upon to make separate arrangement for the Wycombe Rural District.

After consultation with members of the Master Butchers' Association and the National Farmers' Union, your Council decided to licence nine slaughterhouses subject to the premises conforming to a prescribed standard.

It is pleasing to record that the occupiers of the licensed slaughterhouses have been most co-operative in their efforts to maintain satisfactory food hygiene standards, in relation to the methods employed in preparing the carcasses and the condition of the premises.



The Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 to 1954 requiring the stunning of animals by means of mechanically operated instruments, and the licensing by the local authority of slaughtermen together with other rules relating to slaughterhouse practices claimed the attention of your officers. These enactments generally have been well observed.

All animals killed in the slaughterhouses within your Council's area have been examined by your officers.

There is an apparent reduction in the amount of meat condemned. This I conclude is primary due to selective buying by the butchers. Purchase of animals reared locally, resulting in a minimum of transportation and reduced risk of bruising are contributing factors in this connection.

The final report of the Inter-Departmental Committee with regard to the future framework of the slaughtering industry is still awaited. It is to be hoped that the ultimate aim will be to supply to the consumers the best quality meat in perfectly fresh condition, free from disease and at the lowest possible price.

Details relating to the animals slaughtered and inspected are set forth in the accompanying table:-

MEAT.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

|   | Cattle<br>excluding<br>Cows | Cows   | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs   |
|---|-----------------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| Number killed   | 370                         | 204    | 129    | 841                   | 973    |
| Number inspected  | 370                         | 204    | 129    | 841                   | 973    |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis:   |                             |        |        |                       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned   | -                           | 2      | 2      | 5                     | 6      |
| Carcasses of which some part or<br>organ was condemned                                    | 42                          | 41     | -      | 51                    | 92     |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>disease other than<br>Tuberculosis | 11.35%                      | 21.08% | 1.55%  | 6.65%                 | 10.07% |
| Tuberculosis only:  |                             |        |        |                       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned   | -                           | 1      | -      | -                     | -      |
| Carcasses of which some part<br>or organ was condemned                                    | 20                          | 27     | -      | -                     | 14     |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>Tuberculosis                       | 5.4%                        | 13.72% | -      | -                     | 1.44%  |

These figures represent a total carcase weight condemned of 1 ton, 12 cwt. 67 lbs. and weight of offal 1 ton. 3 cwt. 9 lbs.



Foodstuffs Condemned.

Examination of foodstuffs at shops and other food premises has resulted in the issue of twenty-seven condemnation certificates with respect to unsound meat and other foods, details of which are given in the accompanying table:-

| Canned Meat                          | Canned Fruit | Canned Milk | Bacon  | Imported Meat |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------|---------------|
| 60                                   | 14½          | 4½          | 8½     | 450½          |
| Vegetables                           | Fruit        | Eggs (No).  | Cheese | Misc.         |
| 15                                   | 11           | 26          | 9      | 57            |
| Total Weight:- 5 cwts. 2qrs. 14 lbs. |              |             |        |               |

SECTION 'F'

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Factories, Workshops.

H.M. Inspector of Factories & District Councils have divided responsibility in administering the provisions of the Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

Matters requiring the attention of your officers included means of escape in case of fire, water supplies, sanitary accommodation and drainage. Other matters claiming consideration were related to public health nuisances arising from smoke emission.

In this latter connection there is need for constant vigilance. A danger exists that the discharge of smoke may be regarded as the problem of towns and cities and not that of rural areas. Such complacency is unjustified having regard to the expansion of industry. Rural areas may often be considered as suitable districts in which to establish new industry. Such intrusion may well bring new problems to local authorities of rural areas in relation to the emission of smoke and fumes, particularly in connection with the many new manufacturing processes now being employed in industry.

It is appropriate to digress at this point and recall that whilst there is legislative control of public health matters affecting persons in factories and workshops, there is a notable omission in this respect with regard to persons employed in offices. Inadequate lighting, ventilation, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities and overcrowding may occur and satisfactory standards of environmental hygiene ignored. The implementation of the Gower's report on this subject is still awaited.

Lists of outworkers received in February and August 1954 from employers in pursuance of the provisions of the Factories Act 1937 returned 99 homeworkers engaged in various specified trades. Three lists of outworkers resident in other areas were sent to the local authorities concerned and in turn your Council were the recipient of lists of outworkers from four authorities.

The tables submitted herewith and prepared in accordance with Section 128 of the Factories Act 1937, summarise the work entailed in this sphere of administration.

1. INSPECTIONS MADE FOR PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

|   | Number<br>on<br>Register | Inspection.<br>tions. | Written<br>Notices. | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted. |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.                     | 14                       | 8                     | 1                   | Nil                      |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority....                 | 163                      | 81                    | 8                   | Nil                      |
| (3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)... | Nil                      | Nil                   | Nil                 | Nil                      |
| Total.....  | 177                      | 89                    | 9                   | Nil                      |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| Particulars  | Number of cases in which defects were found. |             |                      |                      | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. |
|--|--|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
|  | Found.                                       | Reme- died. | Referred             |                      |  |
|  |  |             | To H.M. Inspec- tor. | By H.M. Inspec- tor. |  |
| Want of cleanliness.....   | Nil  | Nil         | Nil                  | Nil                  | Nil  |
| Overcrowding.....  | Nil  | Nil         | Nil                  | Nil                  | Nil  |
| Unreasonable temperature   | Nil  | Nil         | Nil                  | Nil                  | Nil  |
| Inadequate ventilation..   | 1  | 1           | Nil                  | Nil                  | Nil  |
| Ineffective drainage of floors.....  | 1  | 1           | Nil                  | Nil                  | Nil  |
| Sanitary Conveniences:-  |  |             |                      |                      |  |
| (a) Insufficient.....  | 4  | 4           | Nil                  | 1                    | Nil  |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective.....   | 5  | 5           | Nil                  | 2                    | Nil  |
| (c) Not separate for sexes.....  | 1  | 1           | Nil                  | 1                    | Nil  |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)..... | Nil  | Nil         | Nil                  | Nil                  | Nil  |
| Totals.....  | 12   | 12          | Nil                  | 4                    | Nil  |



OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

| Nature of Work                     | No. of<br>out wor-<br>kers in<br>August<br>list<br>required<br>by Sec.<br>110 (1)<br>(c) | No. of<br>cases<br>of de-<br>fault<br>in<br>sending<br>lists<br>to the<br>Council | No. of<br>prosecu-<br>tions<br>for<br>failure<br>to supply<br>lists. | No. of<br>instan-<br>ces of<br>work in<br>unwhole-<br>some<br>premises. | Notices<br>Served. | Prose<br>cutions |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Wearing apparel<br>Making etc..... | 69   | -   | -  | -   | -                  | -                |
| Lace, lace cur-<br>tains and nets. | 21   | -   | -  | -   | -                  | -                |
| Umbrellas, etc.                    | 7  | -   | -  | -   | -                  | -                |
| Artificial<br>flowers.....         | 2  | -   | -  | -   | -                  | -                |
| Totals.....                        | 99   | -   | -  | -   | -                  | -                |

Rag Flock.

The Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, forbids the use of filling materials to which the Act applies for such purposes as upholstery and the stuffing of bedding, toys and baby carriages except on premises registered by a local authority. Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are given by Regulations and penalties are prescribed for using unclean material.

The close association of humans with bedding, upholstery and associated furnishings emphasises the necessity for filling materials of mattresses, settees etc., to conform to a satisfactory standard.

Accordingly premises have been visited, records checked and samples of rag flock taken where deemed necessary. Generally, the filling materials were found to be marked with the British Standards Institution mark signifying that the filling materials comply with the prescribed standard of cleanliness.

The number of registered premises total nineteen and of the six samples of filling material submitted for examination all conformed to a satisfactory standard.

SECTION 'G'

MISCELLANEOUS.

Moveable Dwellings.

Shortage of housing accommodation and limited financial resources of persons are factors which favour caravan occupation. Movement of servicemen and civilian workers from district to district is another contributory factor. Generally speaking a caravan cannot be regarded as an adequate substitute for a house, and the problems associated with such type of occupation become duly evident in connection with insufficient living space, overcrowding, lack of privacy for members of a family, inadequate clothes drying facilities and overheating of dwellings.

The use of caravans for recreational pursuit purposes and for semi-permanent housing accommodation has necessitated your Council reconciling these needs to housing and public health standards and protection of existing amenities.

Visits in connection with the control of caravans have been related to determination of the sanitary circumstances of the sites and ensuring that reasonably satisfactory standards are maintained.

Work in connection with this sphere of duties is detailed hereunder:-

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of visits for inspection of sites and dwellings.....  | 170 |
| Number of licenses issued.....   | 50  |
| Caravans removed from site as a result of Council's<br>intention to take formal action for contraventions..... | 11  |

Registration of Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Stores.

Your Council are responsible for the administration of the provisions of Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. One new application for registration was approved in connection with people engaged in the trade of old metal dealers, bringing the total registrations to six.



The National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 50.

Under Section 50 it is the responsibility of a local authority to arrange for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or been found dead in this area. The duty is exercisable only where it appears to the Council that no other suitable arrangements have been or are being made.

During the year 1954 your Council were called upon to arrange for the burial of two persons.

Infectious Diseases.

Visits have been made in connection with cases of notifiable infectious diseases. Relevant information with regard to the history of the cases obtained and recorded, contacts checked and disinfection of rooms and bedding carried out. Details of the department's work is indicated below:-

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of visits paid.....   | 72 |
| Number of re-visits.....   | 31 |
| Number of premises disinfected (tuberculosis).....                 | 18 |
| Number of premises disinfected (other infectious<br>diseases)..... | 27 |

CONCLUSION.

The value of preventive medicine is reflected in the vital statistics, particularly in connection with the enormous decrease in the annual death rate and infant mortality rate in the United Kingdom.

These figures serve as a pertinent reminder of the need for continued vigilance and effective action in order to achieve and maintain a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene. It is against this background that your Council's work in connection with the improvement of housing conditions, safe food, wholesome drinking water, good sanitation and clean atmosphere receives its evaluation.

